

Page 39, line 17, delete "process";
 line 18, delete "the";
 same line, change "should" to --would--;
 Page 40, line 14, change "contents" to --content--;
 line 17, change "contents" to --content--;
 Page 41, line 8, change "communicate" to --establish
 communication between--;
 line 9, change "with" to --and--;
 line 12, change "becomes" to --is placed in an--;
 line 13, change "becomes" to --is placed in an--;
 line 14, change "becomes" to --is placed in an--;
 Page 42, line 24, change "operations" to --operation--;
 Page 50, line 13, change "operations" to --operation--;
 Page 51, line 15, change "contents" to --content--;
 Page 53, line 9, change "record" to --recording--;
 line 12, delete "a" first instance.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-31 by rewriting same to read as follows:

A1 Subb1
 --1. (Amended) A recording and reproducing apparatus,
 comprising:

a storing portion for storing at least one program of
 [contents] content data;

a recording and reproducing portion for writing

A) [contents] content data to said storing portion and reading [contents] stored content data from said storing portion; and a signal generating portion for generating a permission signal that allows said recording and reproducing portion to reproduce [contents] said stored content data stored in said storing portion,

wherein when said signal generating portion transmits [the] said permission signal to said recording and reproducing portion, said recording and reproducing portion reproduces [contents] said stored content data stored in said storing portion.

--2. (Amended) The recording and reproducing apparatus [as] set forth in claim 1,

wherein said storing portion stores index data along with [contents] said content data, and

[wherein] said ¹²recording and reproducing portion rewrites [the] said index information corresponding to [the] said permission signal so as to allow said recording and reproducing portion to reproduce [contents] said stored content data stored in said storing portion corresponding to [the] said rewritten index data.

--3. (Amended) The recording and reproducing apparatus [as] set forth in claim 2, ¹³

wherein when said recording and reproducing portion reproduces [contents] content data stored in said storing portion, said recording and reproducing portion supplies [the] said index data stored in said storing portion to said generating portion, and

A1 [wherein] said signal ^Bgenerating portion generates a permission signal corresponding to [the] said index data received from said recording and reproducing portion.

--4. (Amended) The recording and reproducing apparatus [as] set forth in claim 3,

wherein when said recording and reproducing portion writes [contents] content data to said storing portion[, the] and said index data stored in said storing portion is imperfect index data, and

[wherein] when said ^Brecording and reproducing portion reproduces [contents] said stored content data stored in said storing portion, said recording and reproducing portion rewrites [the] said imperfect index data [into] to perfect index data corresponding to [the] said permission signal received from said signal generating portion.

--5. (Amended) The recording and reproducing apparatus [as] set forth in claim 4,

wherein [the] said permission signal generated by said

signal generating portion is perfect index data of [contents] content data [that is] read from said storing portion and [that is] reproduced by said recording and reproducing portion.

X/ Sub 2 --6. (Amended) The recording and reproducing apparatus [as] set forth in claim 2, further comprising:

a [charging] charge processing portion for performing a charging process before said signal generating portion generates [the] said permission signal,

wherein when said recording and reproducing portion reproduces [contents] content data stored in said storing portion, said recording and reproducing portion supplies [the] said index data to said signal generating portion and said [charging] charge processing portion performs [the] said charging process, and

wherein when said charging processing portion has completed [the] said charging process, said signal generating portion generates [the] said permission signal.

--7. (Amended) The recording and reproducing apparatus [as] set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

a terminal unit connected to said recording and reproducing portion; and

a server unit [having] containing said signal generating

portion, said server unit being connected to said terminal unit through a communication network.

--8. (Amended) The recording and reproducing apparatus [as] set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

A1 a terminal unit [having] containing said signal generating portion, said terminal unit being connected to said recording and reproducing portion; and

a server unit connected to said terminal unit through a communication network.

Sub B --9. (Amended) The recording and reproducing apparatus [as] set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

a charging processing portion,
wherein when said recording and reproducing portion reproduces [contents] said stored content data stored in said storing portion, said recording and reproducing portion supplies a charging process signal to said [charging] charge processing portion so that said [charging] charge processing portion performs the charging process, and

[wherein] after said charging processing portion has completed [the] said charging process, said signal generating portion supplies [the] said permission signal to said recording and reproducing portion.

--10. (Amended) The recording and reproducing apparatus [as] set forth in claim 9,

wherein said storing portion stores [the] said charging process signal and [the] said reproduction permission signal along with [contents] said content data, and

A [wherein] said recording and reproducing portion rewrites [the] said reproduction permission signal corresponding to [the] said permission signal received from said signal generating portion.

--11. (Amended) A recording and reproducing apparatus, comprising:

a recording and reproducing portion, having a storing portion for storing at least one program of [contents] content data, for writing [contents] content data to said storing portion and reading [contents] stored content data from said storing portion; and

a server unit having a signal generating portion for generating a permission signal that allows said recording and reproducing portion to reproduce [contents] said stored content data stored in said storing portion,

wherein [when] if said signal generating portion transmits [the] said permission signal to said recording and reproducing portion, said recording and reproducing portion reproduces [contents] said stored content data stored in said

~~storing portion~~

--12. (Amended) The recording and reproducing apparatus [as] set forth in claim 11, .

wherein said storing portion stores index data along with [contents] said content data, and

[wherein] said recording and reproducing portion rewrites [the] said index information corresponding to [the] said permission signal so as to allow said recording and reproducing portion to reproduce [contents] said stored content data stored in said storing portion corresponding to [the] said rewritten index data.

--13. (Amended) The recording and reproducing apparatus [as] set forth in claim 12,

wherein when said recording and reproducing portion reproduces [contents] said stored content data stored in said storing portion, said recording and reproducing portion supplies [the] said index data stored in said storing portion to said signal generating portion, and

[wherein] said signal generating portion generates a permission signal corresponding to [the] said index data received from said recording and reproducing portion.

--14. (Amended) The recording and reproducing apparatus

~~[as] set forth in claim 13,~~

wherein when said recording and reproducing portion writes [contents] content data to said storing portion[, the] and said index data stored in said storing portion is imperfect index data, and

A [wherein] when said recording and reproducing portion reproduces [contents] said stored content data stored in said storing portion, said recording and reproducing portion rewrites [the] said imperfect index data into perfect index data corresponding to [the] said permission signal received from said signal generating portion.

--15. (Amended) The recording and reproducing apparatus [as] set forth in claim 14 *B*

wherein [the] said permission signal generated by said signal generating portion is perfect index data of [contents] said stored content data [that is] read from said storing portion and [that is] reproduced by said recording and reproducing portion.

Sub B --16. (Amended) The recording and reproducing apparatus [as] set forth in claim 12, further comprising:

a [charging] charge processing portion for performing a charging process before said signal generating portion generates [the] said permission signal,

wherein when said recording and reproducing portion reproduces [contents] said stored content data stored in said storing portion, said recording and reproducing portion supplies [the] said index data to said signal generating portion and said [charging] charge processing portion performs [the] said charging process, and

[wherein] when said [charging] charge processing portion has completed the charging process, said signal generating portion generates [the] said permission signal.

--17. (Amended) The recording and reproducing apparatus [as] set forth in claim 11, further comprising:

a charging processing portion,

wherein when said recording and reproducing portion reproduces [contents] said stored content data stored in said storing portion, said recording and reproducing portion supplies a charging process signal to said [charging] charge processing portion so that said [charging] charge processing portion performs the charging process, and

[wherein] after said [charging] charge processing portion has completed [the] said charging process, and signal generating portion supplies [the] said permission signal to said recording and reproducing portion.

--18. (Amended) The recording and reproducing apparatus

[as] set forth in claim 17,

wherein said storing portion stores [the] said charging process signal and [the] said reproduction permission signal along with [contents] said content data, and

A1 [wherein] said recording and reproducing portion rewrites [the] said reproduction permission signal corresponding to [the] said permission signal received from said signal generating portion.

--19. (Amended) The recording and reproducing apparatus [as] set forth in claim 17,

wherein said [charging and] charge processing portion is connected to said recording and reproducing portion and to said server unit through a communication network.

Sub 5 --20. (Amended) The recording and reproducing apparatus [as] set forth in claim 19,

wherein at least [unique] identification data is stored in said terminal unit,

[wherein] and when said recording and reproducing portion reproduces [contents] said stored content data stored in said storing portion, said terminal unit supplies [the] said identification data to said [charging] charge processing portion, and

[wherein] when said [charging] charge processing portion

has determined that said terminal unit is valid [corresponding to the] based upon said identification data received from said terminal unit, said [charging] charge processing portion starts [the] said charging process.

A' --21. (Amended) The recording and reproducing apparatus [as] set forth in claim 20,

wherein when said [charging] charge processing portion has determined that said terminal unit is valid [corresponding to the] based upon said identification data received from said terminal unit, said [charging] charge processing portion is connected to said server unit through the communication network so that said [charging] charge processing portion performs [the] said charging process and rewrites [the] said reproduction permission signal corresponding to [the] said permission signal received from said signal generating portion.

--22. (Amended) A data reproducing method, comprising the steps of:

issuing a [contents] content data transmission request to a server unit, [the contents] said content data transmission request causing a server unit to transmit index data corresponding to [contents] stored content data reproduced from a storing portion of a terminal unit, [the] said storing

portion storing at least one program of [contents] stored content data and [the] said index data;

causing [the] said server unit to transmit said index data of [contents] said stored content data reproduced by [the] said terminal unit corresponding to [the] said transmission request received from [the] said terminal unit;

causing [the] said terminal unit to rewrite [the] said index data stored in [the] said storing portion corresponding to [the] said index data received from [the] said server unit; and

causing [the] said terminal unit to reproduce [contents] said stored content data stored in [the] said storing portion corresponding to [the] said rewritten index data.

--23. (Amended) The data reproducing method [as] set forth in claim 22,

wherein when [the] said terminal unit reproduces [contents] said stored content data stored in [the] said storing portion, [the] said terminal unit supplies [the] said index data stored in [the] said storing portion to [the] said server unit and [the] said server unit supplies perfect index data to [the] said terminal unit corresponding to [the] said received index data.

--24. (Amended) The data reproducing method [as] set

~~forth in claim 23,~~

wherein when [the] said recording and reproducing portion writes [contents] content data to [the] said storing portion[, the] and said index data is imperfect, and

P1 [wherein] when [the] said terminal unit reproduces [contents] said stored content data stored in [the] said storing portion, [the charging] said charge processing portion rewrites [the] said imperfect index data corresponding to said perfect index data received from [the] said server unit.

--25. (Amended) A data reproducing method, comprising the steps of:

reading charging data stored in a storing portion when a terminal unit having [the] said storing portion for storing at least one program of [contents] content data and charging data corresponding thereto is connected to a [charging] charge processing unit;

transmitting [the] said charging data that is read from [the] said storing portion to [the charging] said charge processing unit and to a server unit connected thereto through a communication network so as to perform a charging process; and

allowing [the] said terminal unit to reproduce [contents] stored content data stored in [the] said storing portion after [the] said charging process has been completed between [the

charging] said charge processing unit and [the] said server unit.

--26. (Amended) The data reproducing method [as] set forth in claim 25,

A1 wherein [the] when said storing portion has stored [the contents] content data, [the] said charging data, and permission data [that allows contents] allowing said stored content data to be reproduced, [and

wherein the] said permission data is rewritten to data [that allows contents] allowing said stored content data stored in [the] said storing portion to be reproduced after [the] said charging process has been completed between [the] said charging processing unit and [the] said server unit.

--27. (Amended) The data reproducing method [as] set forth in claim 26, B

wherein when [contents] content data is written to [the] said storing portion, [the] said permission data [is data that] prohibits [the contents] said stored content data stored in [the] said storing portion from being reproduced.

--28. (Amended) The data reproducing method [as] set forth in claim 27,

wherein when [the] said terminal unit is connected to

[the charging] said charge processing unit, [it] said charge processing unit performs an authenticating process for [the] said terminal unit.

21 --29. (Amended) A data recording and reproducing method, comprising the steps of:

storing at least one program of [contents] content data [stored] in a first storing portion and storing charging data that represents charging information of [the contents] stored content data [to] in a second storing portion of a terminal unit;

reading [the] said charging data stored in [the] said second storing portion when [the] said terminal unit is connected to a [charging] charge processing unit;

transmitting [the] said charging data to [the charging] said charge processing unit and to a server unit connected thereto through a communication network; and

allowing [the] said terminal unit to reproduce [contents] stored content data stored in [the] said storing portion after [the] said charging process has been completed between [the charging] said charge processing unit and [the] said server unit.

--30. (Amended) The data recording and reproducing method [as] set forth in claim 29,